

Richard E. D'Aquin, Chair

William T. Roberts, Jr., Vice Chair

Roland M. Toups, Secretary

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of Higher Education



BOARD OF REGENTS

*P.O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253
FAX (225) 342-9318
www.regents.state.la.us*

*William "Billy" Blake
Scott O. Brame
Reggie Dupré
Frances T. Henry
Robert Levy
William A. Oliver
Virgil Robinson, Jr.
Norbert A. Simmons
William Clifford Smith
Pat A. Strong
Artis L. Terrell, Jr.
Steven Sumbler
Student Member*

August 16, 2002

LOUISIANA EDUCATION TEAM HEADED TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY

A team of educators representing Louisiana higher education and K-12 schools will be heading to Harvard University this weekend for a week long forum designed to help the nation address literacy outcomes to support President George Bush's *Reading First* federal education legislation.

The institute, which is hosted by the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices, is designed to assist states in advancing the literacy-related content of teacher preparation programs and better coordinate existing literacy efforts in teacher education through professional development and instructional reform. Louisiana, along with Florida, Georgia, Nevada and New Jersey, was selected by NGA for participation in the Institute for Statewide Literacy Initiatives.

"We are very pleased that Louisiana has been selected to develop a model program to drive reading reform in the country. Our state is on an exciting path in teacher education reform and I am delighted that the progressive work occurring in Louisiana is once again being recognized," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joe Savoie.

For Louisiana's twenty team members, the Institute will serve as a forum to discuss with teams from other selected states, strategies to incorporate best practices in reading development and instruction into existing state education policy and ongoing teacher education reform in order to improve literacy achievement for students. With key educational partners participating in the Institute, Regent member and Blue Ribbon Commission co-chair Frances Henry is optimistic that the meetings will be productive for Louisiana participants.

In fact, at the conclusion of the Institute, teams are to present state-level action plans. These action plans are to also be shared at an in-state literacy conference to be hosted for state and local stakeholders here in Louisiana.

Harvard officials point out that states that have plans in place to use research-based knowledge for teacher preparation and professional development in the area of literacy will have the best chance of effectively using federal funding for the state's plans for *Reading First*, a federal initiative designed to improve the reading performance of young, at-risk students..

Members of the Louisiana team scheduled to attend the Harvard/NGA Institute are: Regent member Frances Henry; Dr. Sally Clausen, President University of Louisiana System; Dr. Loren Blanchard, Assistant Vice President for Accreditation and Accountability, University of Louisiana System; Dr. Jeanne Burns, Associate Commissioner for Teacher Education Initiatives, Board of Regents; Barbara Freiburg, Administrator for K-12 Education and Teacher Certification, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; Dr. Martha Head, Dean, College of Education, Southeastern Louisiana University; Glenn Lee Buquet, BESE Member; Dr. J.P. Beaudoin, Director, Division of School Standards, Accountability and Assistance, Louisiana Department of Education; Rodney Watson, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Student and School Performance, Louisiana Department of Education; Michael Wang, K-12 Policy Analyst, Governor's Office; Dr. Jackie Bobbett, Section Leader For School Assistance, Division of School Standards, Louisiana Department of Education; Dr. Rene Casbergue, Chair, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of New Orleans; Carrice Cummins, Administrator, Richland Parish School District; Dr. Robin Jarvis, Director, Division of Personnel, BESE; Gary Jones, Superintendent, Claiborne Parish School System; Kathy Mouton, Section Supervisor - Secondary Standards (5-12), Division of School Standards and Assessments, Louisiana Department of Education; Kartina Roberts, Education Program Coordinator, Division of School Standards, Louisiana Department of Education; Dr. Carole Ronka, Director, Center for Dyslexia, Nicholls State University; Dr. Margaret Stewart, Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, LSU; Dr. Clayton Wilcox, Superintendent, East Baton Rouge Parish School System; and Dr. Ivory Toldson, Dean, College of Education, Southern University.

The Institute runs August 18-22, 2002.